they feel safe writing online is worse.

WorkOne Unemployment Office – This entity elevates the art of weaponized incompetence in a bureaucratic system to a new art form. They have their internet access crash, refuse to help people if you do not come in to the office way before the scheduled time the office closes, usually are understaffed causing long wait times, lose paperwork, lose information entered into their own online software, need information repeated again and again, and staff seem to be overtly following training to negate helping people receive unemployment benefit payments.

X-Rated Media – 2024 saw legal demands for age verification make PornHub and similar websites end access for Indiana.[18] Sure, people are just going to use VPNs so it is a pointless "protect the children" bullshit fake political win. What is so very bizarre is seeing this access restriction happen at the same time as living in a town where people, from what I have seen over age 40 CIS men specifically, go to porn theaters in person to view adult movies and probably jerk off. Little Denmark closed so Romantix seems to be the most visible go-to spot for in-person porn viewing. It gets kind of awkward trying to buy lube or something friskier when some Wojack is rudely barking at the counter staff to rewind something or keep it paused until he gets in the room. Are these people worried about something salacious being a part of their web browser history and larger online digital footprint but then probably are also walking into skin flicks with their cell phones tracking their locations? Also, all the sex worker websites are up and totally accessible in Indiana without change so guess no one cares if kids access those. Maybe Senate Bill 17 was a gambit to shore up sex work ahead of a downturn economy. Political favors can be obtuse. Cherry-picking a subject makes fake political victories look better. It would actually save lives to cut off kids' access to lead in drinking water and lead in guns since August and September 2025 two kids near me were shot to death by their peers. Parents and guardians should do their jobs to not let minors have smartphones, tablets, and laptops with unmonitored access to the internet, use BARK and other child safety apps. Giving a damn about lead in water or lead moving at deadly velocity would be amazing.

Yard Sales – ironically the main place people fence stolen goods. I feel a little bad about buying power tools that were hotter than summer asphalt but financial violence visited on my household has created unwanted hardship. I needed the tools, and figured I cannot un-steal the things being fenced. The biggest purchase of this type was absolutely on the same block where a cop lives.

Z, Generation and Younger – Hey younger homies, some words of advice. Get out of this shithole town and dysfunctional Dumpster fire of a state. There are better places you can live and even thrive. There are places where there are free things to do, way more fun things to enjoy, a better quality of life. There are places where people join interesting social clubs, play team sports, take enriching classes, go to cool theater shows and eat at nice restaurants. I wound up here to try to get out of a lifetime of living in crappy apartments; the area sucks so houses sell for way under the national average. Go to school somewhere, travel, get a job far away. Spread your wings and get out in the world. If this is home and you want to come back, sure. Don't let this shallow puddle be the only place defining your life experience.

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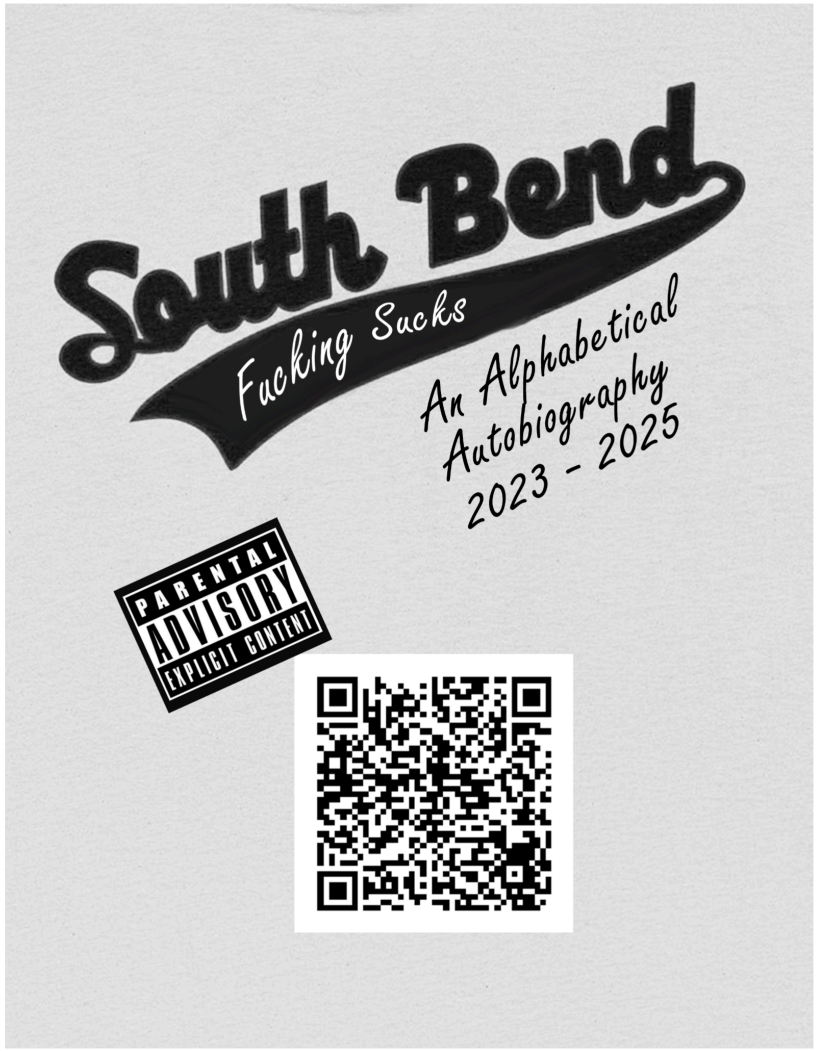

Abortion Ban Obsession – Indiana's leading culture war. The politicians dominating the state senate are so obsessed to make abortion medical care totally inaccessible, they passed a law and use taxpayer money to maintain a registry for anyone who has had an abortion demanding direct reporting of private medical and demographic information making individuals available for later criminal prosecution [IC 16-34-2-5].[1] Burning the Constitutional separation of church and state is a priority, meanwhile the state senate still cannot account for almost $1 Billion dollars missing from the state 2024 budget so they ended support for families with disabled children.[2] The state senate has meddled with people having access to birth control repeatedly.[3] The "crisis pregnancy centers" and "maternal care programs" in town and within an hour drive of South Bend are religious extremist affiliated private organizations that exist to railroad people away from seeking abortions to terminate a pregnancy. These are backed up with the disinformation billboards I have seen around town with images misrepresenting the earliest days and weeks of pregnancy showing a fetus and claiming a heartbeat when medically, only a blob of cells exists.

Alienation – I was talking to a teen that moved here from out of state and we both agreed the first thing we noticed is that people here are mean as shit. Remember this entry every time you see someone local make a toxic online comment, being vicious is a bizarre point of pride for certain people. Insular, ignorant, hostile, and usually from backgrounds that lack experience with diversity, even a lot of the college students are hicks or from suburban Whitetopias. Seeing alleged adult gawp and point at us in a way that would embarrass inner city middle school children was new. Living here has made me very grateful to have grown up in and lived in a major city, having been out of the USA more than once, having an elite education and being a heavy non-fiction reader. I am so grateful for being much more cosmopolitan for my life experience.

Amish – Frequently seen around town and many products for sale in the area, it is weird that people romanticize and financially support a cult. They can give me all the dirty looks they want for my clothes or wearing Pride merch. At least I can wear the clothing I choose and I've never taken a whip to my Subaru to make it run faster.[4]

Boredom – The lack of Third Spaces in town is rough. There is very little to do here. A lot of things are over-priced for how little you get. Potawatomi Conservatories near doubled daily admission to $5 for all three tiny greenhouses. Garfield Park Conservatory charges nothing and it is massive. Nothing much is supported by South Bend. I tried for eight months to gain access to Island Park at Century Center because never in my adult life have I been physically padlocked out of a public park. Repeated calls for months lead to no one being found to being in charge of opening the park. There is nothing much for a functional park district organization, either. People here do not have affordable outlets to play recreational sports, take enrichment classes, go on day trips. No wonder my partner and I have seen so many people in public wrekt on drugs and alcohol, blacked out on the sidewalks and even behind the wheel of a car. There is not much to do here. Substance abuse is a popular hobby.

Buttigieg, Pete – Although he is famously from here, even he does not want to come back to this shithole town. I can't blame him with the MAGA fueled political hate and homophobia on top of the crashing local and crashing state economies. Mainly, I figure he relocated to

came in shortly after the bar had opened for a date night out. We were the only customers in the place; I waved to the bartender as we walked up to order only to watch him turn his back on us, walk away, and not come back. I am running out of places to boycott at this point. I am now taking suggestions for new places to have a negative social interaction in case there is a business or organization I have missed.

South Bend Symphony Orchestra – keeps refusing to learn some new music and keeps playing Harry Potter music scores year after year to sell tickets and thus send more money and culturally support J.K. Rowling. JKR has repeatedly stated if you support her works of fiction, you support her politics which have included constant hate speech attacks on Trans people, leading mass cyberbullying attacks on Trans individuals, funding legal attacks and have also included Holocaust denial.

Teen Mothers – it is sad and so gross to see so many children pushing strollers for their own children. Indiana is in the second-highest tier for teen pregnancy numbers according to the CDC.[15] Indiana allows child marriage under code 31-11-1-7 which is fucking disgusting.[16] Then state senators removed the requirement to teach consent in sex education in 2025 which is also fucking disgusting.[17]

Unity Gardens – Maybe seeking to help, be socially relevant, or hoover up more grant money, started an unlicensed daycare program named Little Sprouts when Indiana cut all summer food assistance funding for children receiving free or reduced school lunches. Within the third week of its scheduled hours, paid staff was leaving the children outdoors unattended while parking their butts indoors in the air conditioning. Anti-Blackness is a specifically toxic and pervasive form of racism which I watched in horror be visited upon the children directly. The head of the Little Sprouts program started a fight between two boys over spit touching food by feeding them from the same plate instead of giving them each their own plates like human beings. My *dogs* had their own food dishes and water bowls. Then the head of this so-called program stood over a little girl and made her eat a slice of pizza that was dropped on the filthy cement floor, in a building where dirt and fertilizer is getting tracked all over no less. There was a swarm of nonstop fruit flies in the building. Sara Stewart instantly pushed back on information that all staff involved with Little Sprouts should have basic first aid certifications, pass a background check, document any allergies for children in the program (one child had an allergy for bee / wasp stings and there are bee hives on the property), and absolutely have Mandated Reporter child abuse training. I can, and have, passed up to a Federal background check, been a certified trained CASA-GAL legal advocate direct reporting to the head family court judge for years, worked in a grammar school, worked at a park district, volunteered for Chicago Public Library events and more over decades. As much as I love to teach art to little ones, I am not getting subpoenaed if a kid gets sick or harmed. The racism of seeing little kids treated like animals with repeated unsanitary food problems was the last straw. I text quit volunteering there.

Viciousness - Holy fuck, white people here casually say the most racist things I have heard in decades. It is a throwback to the late 1980s to early 1990s in many cases. I can't even keep track of it all. They don't even seem to have the slightest awareness of what is wrong to outright glee when the most inappropriate things just come right out of their mouths. The shit

either, trying to threaten the crowd with their trucks and by walking around trying to agitate protesters. One magat was arrested for violence. Over 2000 pounds of donated food and money was collected to help the county food pantry at that event showing you can care about your fellow citizens both mentally and physically at the same time.

Martin's Grocery Stores – Have you ever noticed your price changes at check out when you use your Martin's Advantage Card? The store makes you apply for the customer card by sharing your personal information then congratulates you on being "accepted" when you receive the discount card. Having prices change for items on sale at checkout based on having the Advantage Card or not having the card is called customer discrimination. Jewel supermarket chain in Illinois lost that lawsuit a long time ago.

Notre Dame University – Buying an increasing amount of property downtown 2024 - 2025, having an endowment of $16.62 Billion and a budget of $1.8 Billion listed at the time of this writing on top of all the tax free land it owns.[13] I just sort of hoped a major institution did more for the community where it exists. Just to put things into perspective, if you had $1 Billion dollars and you spent one thousand dollars a day, it would be about 2,738 years before you run out of money.[14]

Opioid Epidemic – Since opioids and fentanyl overdoses are an ongoing problem in town, my partner and I have both been carrying Naloxone which I was able to get via self service on my own from a St. Joseph County Health Department location. General first aid training can be found on TikTok and YouTube. A Witch friend online who is a nurse also advised that if someone comes around, there is a good chance you might have to block getting punched which is something the online videos had all left out.

Police Chases – I had a crazy week in 2024 where 5 out of 7 days there were four or more squad cars chasing fleeing drivers tearing down my street. A high school is a few blocks further down my street and kids are often pedestrians in the area. I wish the local PD would dial it down with chasing. I have lived in hoods with active, visible gang presences that never saw that many chases in any week of my life.

Quiet Quitting – This is the Solutions section of this publication. Dip. Bow out. Don't participate, don't show up, don't join. Revoke Support. Stop donating. Stop patronizing. Let things die. Every group, organization, nonprofit, or business that is not robustly meeting the needs of its surrounding community must see all support revoked.

R-Bar – Maybe if they paid their Drag performers at all 75% of each song would not be spent working the room for tips. The only, last-standing Gay bar in town, they straight-washed their social media presence in 2024 replacing their Pride flag logo with a dumb looking new cheeseburger logo that possibly was created by someone drunk using MS Paint. They got real cagey when someone noticed the minute the new logo went up and asked if they were not Queer anymore. Prior to this was a Facebook fun fest where one of the owners wrote a bombastic Wall O' Text post about how she is *tOtAlY nOt tRaNsPhObIc* because she helped with a fund-raiser to help someone pay for top surgery and that post of course had all the comments turned off. We have not been back since we were deadass refused service. We Michigan because he has young children. I wouldn't want to raise children here, either.

Cloud Walking / Counterspell – Nothing shows someone how much the job interview does not matter than showing up over forty five minutes late then trying to talk up $12/hour, no insurance, no benefits as being okay because there are tips! This was for my partner who had 15+ years, barista training and management experience at Starbucks. I hate people who feel entitled to a successful business. Owning a business is not more important than paying staff a living wage. I hate the rainbow washing. If you are actually progressive, support the people running your business with healthcare, dental, vision, and a living income. Otherwise, close it down.

Cultural Appropriation – I need the white girls trying to wear Black locs and everyone with "Native American tattoos" or "Indigenous spiritual practices" to get educated and stop, please stop. White hair does not loc. Unless you are BIA carded and an acknowledged member claimed by the tribe itself, you are white. I also do not give a fuck what bullshit your grandparents told you about your great-great-great-great-great-grandmother. Who you married is not club membership. None of that is a ticket to ride. You know who you are, so knock it off.

Dollar Tree – This is my first time living in a community where someone has been pissing in the scented candles in a store and getting away with it.[5] People talk shit about Chicago around here but this news story was a shock to me. Also, the store on Western Avenue is often a hot mess and has been piled with enough boxes to hit five feet in height and blocking aisles enough to be a fire hazard. This is noticeable when staff bothers to show up to open that store during scheduled hours.

Education Standards – Living here is the first time I have routinely run into people who could not read since the 1980s in deep rural eastern Tennessee, where my grandparents had a large farm. The people there felt a deep connection to their Baptist churches and went to church regularly as they were unable to read the Bible themselves. People here ask what they can buy at the counter of fast food restaurants or get jammed up trying to navigate things from memory since they cannot read print. The broad lack of adult literacy here was shocking. Former Superintendent of Public Instruction Jennifer McCormick said in person at a campaign rally the 2023-2024 Indiana school year started with over 3,300 teaching positions unfilled and some teaching jobs had been given to people that did not graduate high school. Indiana lowered high school graduation requirements below normal college admissions requirements so they could claim more students graduated high school.[6] Demanding volunteer hours to graduate high school is using minors for slave labor. Trying to use high school graduation "Readiness Seals" for college enrollment, employment, or military enlistment serves to coerce minors and teenagers into making life decisions in a state that has been defunding education and then expecting youth to collectively overcome this problem.

Grift – State officials just take tax payers money here and pocket it without any protections or consequences. At least in Illinois we had the decency to throw three state governors into prison. Dumb voters here will listen to the most blatant lies so long as they are spewed by mobsters holding a Bible. Gov. Braun froze all wages for state employees, used $118 Million on

his personal home for a helipad after spending a fortune making a police helicopter fly his ass around, then did a 2025 downsizing of state employees.[7] Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith has pumped tax payer money into his personal church and now wants $6 Million of Indiana's budget for the church to spend.[8] This is the same church where Beckwith's senior pastor's son, Jonathan Wesley Peternel (age 24) was arrested on seven counts of child sex crimes on October 23, 2025.[9] Since Attorney General Todd Rokita stuck signs all over South Bend saying he will protect people, this better mean Peternel will see the full weight of the law; though $6 Million in taxpayer money funneled to this church would also pay for a good criminal defense team.

Homeless Population – House hunting rapidly broke me of the "cute college town" image I held for South Bend. Around September 2022, police busted up and billy clubbed a homeless tent encampment on an empty lot near or off Sample Street. Then the city totally defunded all winter warming centers next. The number of people experiencing homelessness is rising while some voters argue to not give more funds to help people in need.[10]

Indiana Dinosaur Museum – Lock in, I have so much beef with this place, I need to drive back to Chicago to get Turano rolls and hot giardinara. 1) It is super expensive with tickets being $20 - $40, even the kids tickets start at $20. 2) The city gave this business $2.7 Million dollars in free money but it has no free to the public days.[11] 3) Before opening they held several job fairs to recruit unpaid volunteers to run the gift shop and ticketing desks and seem to have generated no jobs worthy of a $2.7 Million investment in tax payer money. 4) It is not an accredited museum nor is it involved with the American Alliance of Museums accreditation process for ethics and bringing value to the public. 5) It has a huge conflict of interest for the museum owners embedding marketing and mixing money with their other business, the South Bend Chocolate company. Also, some of the visual culture display materials for "Mayan culture" are colonized racial caricatures and problematic. 6) They could not even hire a local company to do their website and used Bentobox, an out of state webdev company that serves the restaurant industry slap up a website as they kept falling behind on their opening date. 7) When the website went live, the owners published a letter thanking God for their success, not the city taxpayers who footed the bill.

Judicial System – Local and state courts are using the Constitution to make origami any way they can imagine to stop The Satanic Temple from bringing legitimate cases in front of a judge. The main game seems to be to invent a wild new reason a TST filed case cannot be heard so that they do not have to go on the record breaking the Constitution. Case, what case? Most recently Indiana has blocked a parent who brought a case suing to allow the After School Satan Club to their own child's school from being heard in court. Then the system turned around and demanded proof of need for rights to exist, saying in order for TST to sue for religious access to abortion they must submit a complete list of all pregnant members in immediate need of an abortion for a case to be heard. Wow, another abortion registry? The state politicians with an ongoing agenda to fuse their personal religious extremism with state government are very comfortable trying to deny equal access to TST.[12]

Karens – Imagine being so broke and bored, you go back to playing Pokémon Go, only to look up and see you are being stalked and recorded by a woman in a minivan. We have been harassed, threatened, photographed, and video recorded repeatedly since moving here. Then the Karens found out someone Transgender was working at the Starbucks and totally lost their shit. My partner had an over ten year run with the company and got a needed promotion only to not last ten months in this fucked up town. My partner lost decent healthcare benefits and over $55K in income in the following year and a half, $1500 in attorneys fees where my partner won two hearings to uphold he was the victim of wrongful termination, only to get exactly $0 in unemployment money. The Democrats got stomped in the following 2024 election and the employment law attorney ghosted us.

Lead – (Pb, Periodic Table #82) Exhausted from dealing with 99 other problems, trying to address the lead city water service line to the house has been its own nightmare. Filters for the lead mitigation system I installed are over $200 each. I may be onto what is impacting low IQ levels. A chemist in charge of water testing with the laboratory I hired advised me Indiana allows lead in the drinking water whereas Michigan law accurately recognizes the only safe amount of lead in drinking water is zero.

LGBTQ Center – I shall submit a complete list of all the times this worthless organization has failed to call or email me back: looking for a Realtor recommendation, asking about crime demographic information for the city, having been a robbery victim and inquiring if they have a police department liaison, needing a referral for an employment law attorney, they printed the wrong day and date for the professional networking meetup on their fliers, looking for jobs and applying to the organization directly. Following up with whomever cannot be bothered to share their name on Facebook DMs who was very rude in one exchange and stated the listed jobs were not available for hire, are not doing "an open call" for hiring (i.e. job discrimination.) Fake help is worse than no help. When you have an organization that does nothing but take in money to hold an office open and some people get to put their names on business cards, it helps no one. Fake help organizations do harm by making people think there is support for LGBTQ+ people. This place was so transphobic, it drove Trans people out and led Meghan Buell to open TREES as a safe space told me a lot. Sadly, TREES closed and Meghan died shortly after we moved here. Do not give the LGBTQ Center any money, ever. I have passed my third year on the hotline, please donate to The Trevor Project. We are doing real work to help minors and youth, every day, around the clock. I also don't care if any AFAB, femmes, or Trans women are now working with the LGBTQ Center if the effect is the usual amount of disorganization and inability to help anyone in South Bend; maybe new staff accepted a Glass Cliff position or employing certain demographics as human shields is a strategy to deflect criticism. Living here has been an ongoing education in the greater level of hostility people have toward Trans men and anyone who is actually visibly Queer versus vanilla or gender stereotype conforming.

MAGA – Can we just admit that this toxic fandom is mostly a social media illusion? The *South Bend Tribune* reported 10/18/2025 over 6000 thousand protesters came out against the Trump administration for the No Kings 2 event in October 2025 to be met with about 8 counter-protesters. That is because bots, Sock Puppets, Astroturfing and foreign troll farm accounts cannot show up to an event in person. The counter-protesters dutifully wore the same trumpy fanboy uniforms and transported the same flags they used their own money to purchase. All the ones I saw were beer-gutted middle-aged guys who pretty much do not look like they would be fun at any parties. The counter-protesters could not stay on their corner,